

REMARKS

Claim 25 has been amended to recite an optical information recording substrate comprising cured film of a photo-curable transfer sheet and having an uneven surface of recorded pits and/or grooves on one side of the cured film and a photo-curable composition comprising a compound having a photopolymerizable functional group and the ratio by weight of the homopolymer or copolymer : the compound. Support for amended Claim 25 can be found at, for example, page 14, lines 23-26, page 15, lines 1- 2, page 37, lines 24-26 to page 38, lines 1-2, page 43, lines 13-16 and the Working Examples. Claims 33-38 have been added. Support for Claims 33-38 can be found at, for example, page 21, lines 19-25. Upon entry of this Amendment, which is respectfully requested, Claims 25-29 and 32-38 will be pending.

Response to Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 25-29 and 32 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over JP 11102542 to Matsuoka et al in view of JP 11353709 to Matsuoka et al. and U.S. Patent No. 5,942,578 to Noguchi et al. Applicants respectfully traverse.

The present claims are directed to a photo-curable transfer sheet (i.e., a combination of the claimed polymer and the monomer or oligomer having a photopolymerizable functional group at the claimed ratio) which is depressed onto an uneven shape of a stamper for preparing an optical information recording substrate to precisely follow the uneven surface. In this regard, the uneven surface is precisely transferred to the surface of the transfer sheet. Thus the resultant optical information substrate has a signal surface (uneven surface) to which the unevenness of the stamper is precisely transferred and an extremely smooth reverse side (surface) corresponding to a laser-irradiation-side. Accordingly, the resultant optical information

recording medium obtained from the substrate scarcely brings about occurrence of errors when the information (signals) is recorded or read out.

Matsuoka '542 discloses a laminate consisting of a first release sheet and a second release sheet which are bonded to each other with an adhesive sheet and used for preparing a disc. However, Matsuoka '542 does not disclose or suggest the adhesive composition or a process for curing an adhesive. Accordingly, Matsuoka '542 fails to disclose or suggest the presently claimed photo-curable transfer sheet.

Matsuoka '709 discloses a method of adhering a first optical disk substrate to a second optical disk substrate with a double-sided pressure sensitive adhesive sheet. However, the adhesive properties of the adhesive sheet are a function of its tackiness (i.e., a pressure-sensitive adhesive sheet), and the adhesive sheet utilizes a styrene-butadiene copolymer and the like. *See*, Example 1. Thus, the adhesive sheet of Matsuoka '709 is not cured. Accordingly, Matsuoka '709 fails to disclose or suggest the presently claimed photo-curable transfer sheet.

Noguchi discloses a pressure sensitive adhesive composition which includes at least two energy beam curable polymers having energy beam polymerizable groups in side chains thereof. However, Noguchi does not disclose or suggest an optical information substrate or medium. In this regard, Noguchi fails to disclose or suggest that the copolymer A1, B1 is effective to form an uneven surface of recorded pits and/or grooves on one side. Further, Noguchi does not disclose or suggest a monomer or oligomer having a photopolymerizable functional group.

Thus, Matsuoka '542, Matsuoka '709 and Noguchi fail to disclose or suggest the presently claimed photo-curable transfer sheet or the effects of the present invention. Further, even if one skilled in the art combined the cited references, the presently claimed invention would not be obtained. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Th Hunter', written over a horizontal line.

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